



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was initiated under the direction of the late Margaret Jarman Hagood, formerly Chief of the Farm Population Branch, and Louis J. Ducoff, present Chief of this Branch.

The authors are grateful to Henry S. Shryock, Assistant Chief of the Population Division, Bureau of the Census, who suggested the suitability of data collected in connection with the May 1958 Current Population Survey as a source of information on the farm-reared population; and to William M. Haenszel, Chief of the Biometry Branch, National Cancer Institute, Public Health Service, for making available the residence-history data collected by the Bureau of the Census specifically for the National Cancer Institute.

Gladys K. Bowles, of the Farm Population Branch, Economic Research Service, supervised the planning of tabulations and the preparation of data for analysis.

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DECEMBER 1964

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## HIGHLIGHTS

In May 1958 there were 25.8 million people in the United States 18 years old and over who had been born on farms. The farm-born comprised nearly a fourth of the total civilian population of that age group. About five-eighths of the farm-born adults were no longer living on farms. Because so many of them had left their farm homes, one-sixth of all nonfarm residents were persons of farm origin. Being born on a farm has usually meant growing up on one, for 97 percent of the persons born on farms spent half or more of their first 18 years of life on the farm.

Although the rate of outmigration from farms is high, there is a substantial amount of residential stability in the remaining farm population. Over half of the farm-born adults still living on farms had spent their entire lives on the farms where they were born, and another fourth had moved from one farm to another but had never lived off-farm. Once people leave the farm however, the rate of return is very low--only a tenth of all people who had ever left farms had returned to one to live at the time of the survey.

The proportion of farm-born people who had left the farm by May 1958 ranged from 53 percent for those 18 to 24 years of age to 68 percent for persons 65 years old and over. On the average, farm-born girls were leaving at a somewhat earlier age than boys. At much older ages, where widowhood is a factor, women had more often left the farm than had men. However, during the middle span of adult life there was little difference in the proportion of men and women who had left the farm. White and nonwhite farm-born persons showed no difference in the over-all extent to which they had remained on or left farms.

As would be expected from the geographic distribution of farms and farm population in the Nation, substantial differences were found in the regional origin of farm and nonfarm-born people. Over half of the farm-born were natives of the South, with about a third from the North Central States, and only a ninth from the Northeast and West combined. On the other hand, a larger number of the nonfarm-born were from the Northeast than any other region (about a third, excluding foreign-born), followed closely by the North Central States and the South.

Although large numbers of farm-born people change their place of residence, they do not usually leave their region of birth, and have been less likely than the nonfarm-born to make interregional moves. Where interregional moves have occurred, the major streams of migration of persons of farm origin have been from the South to the North Central States and from the North Central States to the West.

The farm-born element in the nonfarm population was considerably under-represented in white-collar jobs and more heavily engaged in blue-collar work. This was true of all age groups. There was no evidence of higher unemployment rates among the farm-born residents of nonfarm areas in the month of the survey (May 1958), even though this month was a period of economic recession. Their unemployment rate of 7.4 percent was almost identical with that of 7.3 percent among their nonfarm-born neighbors. Even young migrants from farms (18-24 years old), who might be considered to have a maximum comparative disadvantage in training and job seniority, were not more frequently unemployed than were young adults of nonfarm birth.

Because very few nonwhite people of nonfarm origin move to farms and remain on them and because few nonwhite farm natives return to farms if they once move away, there was a large difference between the proportions of white and of nonwhite people in the farm population of 1958 who had had the experience of living away from the farm. Only 15 percent of the adult, nonwhite farm population had lived off the farm for as much as a year, compared with 40 percent of the white farm population.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE U.S. POPULATION BY FARM AND NONFARM ORIGIN

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## INTRODUCTION

The position of the farm-reared person who leaves the farm has been the subject of a number of studies. Economists and sociologists generally agree that the average off-farm migrant occupies a social and economic position somewhat different from that of the established urban dweller, that he often is disadvantaged in his educational background, and possesses fewer job skills demanded by urban industries. Also, that his income is typically lower and he is found in proportionately larger numbers in a social or economic problem situation. (See page 23 for selected references on urban adjustments of rural migrants.)

Until now, almost all studies in this area have been limited to particular communities and little data have been available on a nationwide basis on the differences between the farm and nonfarm-reared who live in nonfarm areas. 1/ How do the migrants from farms compare in their population characteristics with individuals born in a nonfarm environment? What is their incidence of unemployment and their distribution by occupation and industry in comparison with other nonfarm residents? How do they differ from people who remain on the farm? What proportion of the farm-born have left the farm? Where do they live? Do many of them move back to the farm? These are some of the questions that arise.

In May 1958, the Bureau of the Census added questions on residence history to its Current Population Survey in connection with a study, for the Public Health Service, of residence and smoking history effects on lung cancer risks. 2/ The data were collected for the noninstitutional civilian population 18 years old and over from a national sample of about 35,000 households. At a later date, it became possible for the Economic Research Service to utilize the data from this survey to tabulate the farm-nonfarm birthplace and current residence status of the population and thus obtain information bearing on the questions posed above. Although the original survey was conducted six years ago, most of the numbers and characteristics shown are not thought to have changed significantly since that time. Place of birth is a fixed characteristic that does not change in a person's lifetime, nor do population distributions by marital status or occupation change rapidly.

## NUMBER, PRESENT FARM STATUS, AND COLOR OF FARM-BORN PEOPLE

There were 25.8 million native-born persons 18 years of age and over in the United States in May 1958 who had been born on farms (table 1). They comprised

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1/ Heretofore the sole national information available has been from a sample of 2,500 farm-reared persons in 1952. See Freedman and Freedman (5), page 23. (Under-scored numbers in parentheses refer to items in Selected References.)

2/ Results from this study are reported in Haenszel and Taeuber (6) and Haenszel, Loveland, and Sirken (7).

# RESIDENCE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, 1958

## By Farm or Nonfarm Birthplace

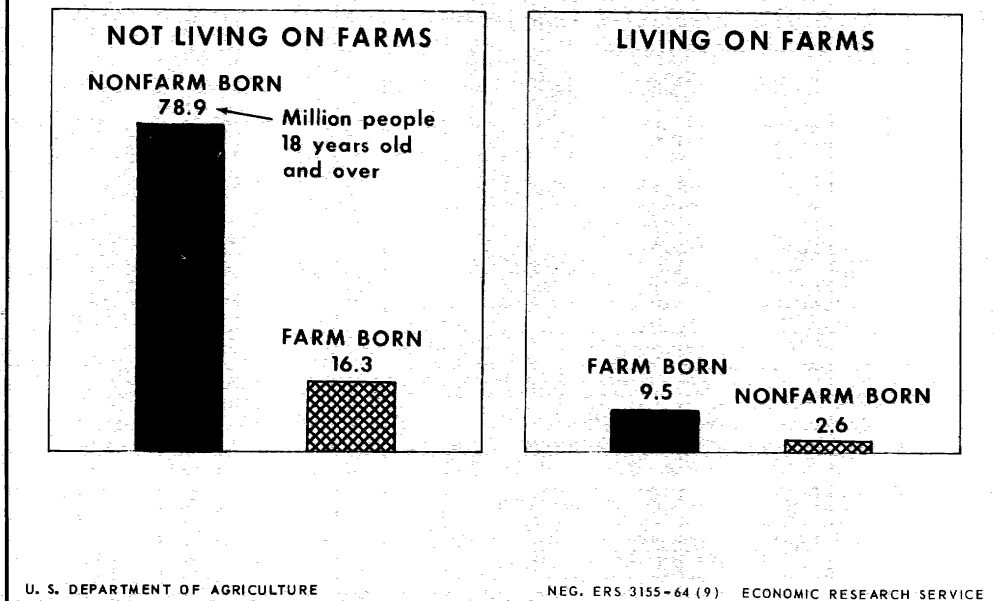


Figure 1

Table 1.--Distribution of the civilian population 18 years of age and over, by residence, farm or nonfarm birthplace, and color, United States, 1958

Residence and farm or nonfarm birthplace	Population			Percentage distribution		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	108,676	98,014	10,662	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm-born	25,799	22,199	3,600	23.7	22.6	33.8
Nonfarm-born	81,518	74,743	6,775	75.0	76.3	63.5
Place of birth and/or residence not reported	1,359	1,072	287	1.3	1.1	2.7
Farm residents	12,035	10,621	1,414	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm-born	9,451	8,109	1,342	78.5	76.4	94.9
Entire life on same farm	5,160	4,267	893	42.9	40.2	63.2
Some moves between farms	2,475	2,165	310	20.5	20.4	21.9
Some nonfarm moves	1,816	1,677	139	15.1	15.8	9.8
Nonfarm-born	2,584	2,512	72	21.5	23.6	5.1
Nonfarm residents	95,282	86,321	8,961	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm-born	16,348	14,090	2,258	17.2	16.3	25.2
Nonfarm-born	78,934	72,231	6,703	82.8	83.7	74.8
Entire life nonfarm	75,636	69,152	6,484	79.4	80.1	72.4
Some farm moves	3,298	3,079	219	3.4	3.6	2.4

nearly a fourth of the total population of this age. However, only 9.5 million of the farm-born (or 37 percent) still lived on farms. Thus, as a result of migration, many more farm-born persons live in cities and other nonfarm places than on farms (figure 1). Persons of farm birth (excluding those born abroad) make up somewhat more than a sixth of the nonfarm population. More than two-fifths of adults living on farms in 1958 were living on the farms where they were born, and another fifth had moved between farms but had never lived off the farm for as long as one year (figure 2). Fifteen percent of the farm population consisted of persons who were farm-born but who at some time in their lives had moved to a nonfarm residence only to move back again. Finally, a little more than one-fifth of the farm population was comprised of people who were not farm-born.

Among farm-born people there has been no difference overall in the proportions of whites and nonwhites who have left the farm. The same proportion (63 percent) of both whites and nonwhites born on farms were residing in nonfarm areas in 1958. However, the proportion of nonwhites who were farm-born (34 percent) was higher than the proportion of farm-born among whites (23 percent). This stems from the fact that in past years nonwhites (largely Negroes) were disproportionately employed in agriculture and had a comparatively small urban population. Because of this, equal white and nonwhite rates of outmigration from farms have weighted the nonwhite population residing in cities and other nonfarm areas more heavily with persons of farm origin than is true for whites. In the nonfarm population, 16 percent of all white adults had come from farms compared with 25 percent of non-white adults.

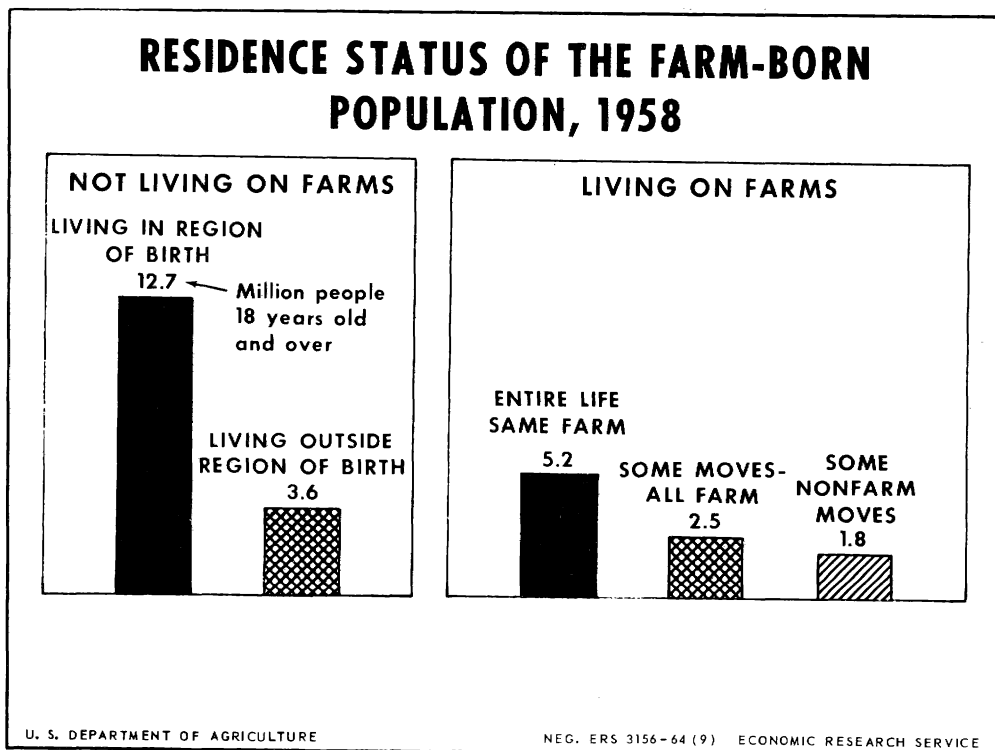


Figure 2

## SEX DIFFERENCES

There is no meaningful difference in the ratio of male to female births in farming areas as compared with nonfarm areas. Both have a slight excess of boys. When farm youth grow up, however, girls leave the farm at a somewhat earlier average age than boys and in greater numbers. Agriculture is largely a male industry, and if a farm girl does not become a farmer's wife the opportunities for her to obtain work locally are usually more limited than in the city. As a result, the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) of the farm population 18 years old and over was 109.0 in 1958 compared with a ratio of 87.8 for the civilian nonfarm population, excluding inmates of institutions (table 2), and 95.1 in the total population.

Table 2.--Sex ratios of the civilian population 18 years of age and over, by residence, farm or nonfarm birthplace, and age, United States, 1958

Residence and farm or nonfarm birthplace	Sex ratios <sup>1/</sup>						
	Total	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
Farm residents	109.0	121.0	100.4	95.2	104.1	117.6	128.1
Nonfarm residents	87.8	77.1	90.3	91.9	94.1	88.7	79.4
Farm-born persons	97.2	96.2	95.9	97.4	97.7	101.2	94.6
Farm residents	115.5	128.2	108.1	102.2	110.5	125.8	128.0
Nonfarm residents	88.0	74.8	89.9	94.8	91.1	89.2	82.1
Nonfarm-born persons	87.8	77.8	90.1	90.8	94.4	88.7	80.1
Farm residents	88.2	90.6	79.8	74.1	83.8	92.5	128.5
Nonfarm residents	87.8	77.5	90.4	91.4	94.8	88.5	78.6

<sup>1/</sup> Number of males per 100 females.

Among farm-born residents on farms, the sex ratio was 115.5. In this group the ratio reached a peak of 128.2 in the age interval 18-24. This is about five boys for every four girls, reflecting the earlier age at which girls leave the farm. As more of the young men move away, the ratio achieves a closer balance; it was 106.2 among farm-born farm residents 35-54 years old. After age 55, families are increasingly broken by death of one of the spouses, and when a farm wife is widowed she is more likely to move away from the farm than is a farmer who loses his wife by death. Thus at this age the sex ratio again increases in the farm population, as evidenced by the ratio of 128.0 among farm-born farm residents 65 years old and over.

The excess of women among migrants from farms contributes to a relatively low sex ratio in the nonfarm population. But when the predominantly male institutional population and the Armed Forces are excluded--as was done in this survey--the sex ratio of the nonfarm-born, nonfarm population proved to be the same as that of farm-born people who have moved away from farms (87.8). In no age group did the migrants from farms have a sex ratio higher than 95, nor did the nonfarm natives and residents.



At the age group 18-24 years, where migration rates are highest, the sex ratio of persons leaving the farm was only 74.8, or approximately four girls for every three boys.

## AGE DIFFERENCES

A large amount of the migration from farms takes place between the ages of 18 and 24, after farm boys and girls leave high school and either seek employment elsewhere or join the Armed Forces. <sup>3/</sup> Until age 18, the great majority of farm-born young people remain on the farm, because their parents are not very likely to leave. This is evidenced by the fact that of all persons born on farms, about 95 percent spent more than one-half of their first 18 years on the farm (data not shown).

The farm-born population is an older group than the nonfarm-born. It has relatively greater numbers of people over age 45, whereas the majority of nonfarm-born adults are under 45. The continued migration off the farm has been largely responsible for the older age of the farm-born, for, with a greatly reduced number of people now living on farms, fewer children are being born on the farm than previously. Conversely, the nonfarm-born population is relatively youthful, partly because it includes the nonfarm-born children of many married couples who left farms as young adults and had their families later.

The median age of persons 18 and over who were farm-born but now live in nonfarm areas is about 47 years, whereas the median age of nonfarm-born nonfarm residents is about 42 years (table 3). In the resident nonfarm population, farm-born people comprised only 12.6 percent of the population aged 18-24. This proportion is higher in each succeeding age group, however, reflecting the cumulative effect of migration over time and the fact that farm-born people were more numerous in the past than now. At age 65 and over, practically a fourth (24.3 percent) of the nonfarm residents whose birthplace is known were born on farms.

By contrast, there was a remarkable uniformity by age in the proportion of farm-born people who have left the farm. For the age groups 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64 years, this proportion ranged only between 63.4 and 64.7 percent. It was somewhat lower (53.3 percent) for farm-born persons 18-24 years, ages at which migration is still developing, and somewhat higher (68.1 percent) at age 65 and over, reflecting the final migratory movement associated with retirement. When the farm-born group who were 25-34 in 1958 reach the age 55-64 some years from now, their cumulative rate of outmigration to nonfarm places will probably be higher than the rate for those 55-64 in 1958, for net outmovement from the farms continues during middle age although at a fairly low rate. But relatively high migration from the farm is not something that has happened only to the present younger generation. The farm-born people who were 55-64 years old in 1958--of whom only 36.6 percent were still on farms--were born between 1893 and 1903 and had experienced their principal period of migration from about 1913 to 1928, before either the Depression, or World War II, or the postwar years.

Among both the farm and nonfarm populations, nonwhite persons are a younger group than whites. In part, the younger age structure is due to higher birth rates among the nonwhite. And in part it stems from higher death rates among the nonwhite, especially in the past, which produced a shorter duration of life.

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<sup>3/</sup> Farm youth may also leave to attend college, but under the procedures of the Current Population Survey, college students continue to be counted at the parental home unless they marry.

Table 3.--Age and sex of the civilian population 18 years of age and over, by farm or nonfarm birthplace and residence, United States, 1958

Age and sex	Farm-born						Nonfarm-born					
	Number			Percentage distribution			Number			Percentage distribution		
	Total	Residence		Total	Residence		Total	Residence		Total	Residence	
		Farm	Nonfarm		Farm	Nonfarm		Farm	Nonfarm		Farm	Nonfarm
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total	25,799	9,451	16,348	100	36.6	63.4	81,518	2,584	78,934	100	3.2	96.8
18-24 years	2,875	1,342	1,533	100	46.7	53.3	10,777	265	10,512	100	2.5	97.5
25-34	4,201	1,484	2,717	100	35.3	64.7	18,204	480	17,724	100	2.6	97.4
35-44	5,258	1,917	3,341	100	36.5	63.5	17,513	552	16,961	100	3.2	96.8
45-54	4,959	1,802	3,157	100	36.3	63.7	14,537	500	14,037	100	3.4	96.6
55-64	4,017	1,472	2,545	100	36.6	63.4	10,611	410	10,201	100	3.9	96.1
65 and over	4,489	1,434	3,055	100	31.9	68.1	9,876	377	9,499	100	3.8	96.2
Males	12,715	5,065	7,650	100	39.8	60.2	38,113	1,211	36,902	100	3.2	96.8
18-24 years	1,410	754	656	100	53.5	46.5	4,715	126	4,589	100	2.7	97.3
25-34	2,057	771	1,286	100	37.5	62.5	8,626	213	8,413	100	2.5	97.5
35-44	2,595	969	1,626	100	37.3	62.7	8,334	235	8,099	100	2.8	97.2
45-54	2,451	946	1,505	100	38.6	61.4	7,058	228	6,830	100	3.2	96.8
55-64	2,020	820	1,200	100	40.6	59.4	4,987	197	4,790	100	4.0	96.0
65 and over	2,182	805	1,377	100	36.9	63.1	4,393	212	4,181	100	4.8	95.2
Females	13,084	4,386	8,698	100	33.5	66.5	43,405	1,373	42,032	100	3.2	96.8
18-24 years	1,465	588	877	100	40.1	59.9	6,062	139	5,923	100	2.3	97.7
25-34	2,144	713	1,431	100	33.3	66.7	9,578	267	9,311	100	2.8	97.2
35-44	2,663	948	1,715	100	35.6	64.4	9,179	317	8,862	100	3.5	96.5
45-54	2,508	856	1,652	100	34.1	65.9	7,479	272	7,207	100	3.6	96.4
55-64	1,997	652	1,345	100	32.6	67.4	5,624	213	5,411	100	3.8	96.2
65 and over	2,307	629	1,678	100	27.3	72.7	5,483	165	5,318	100	3.0	97.0
Median age of - -	Years	Years	Years				Years	Years	Years			
Total population	46.1	44.9	46.8	---	---	---	41.7	44.9	41.6	---	---	---
Males	46.2	45.4	46.7	---	---	---	41.9	46.4	41.7	---	---	---
Females	46.1	44.4	47.0	---	---	---	41.6	43.8	41.5	---	---	---

## MARITAL STATUS

Among persons born on farms there is no great difference between those who stay on farms and those who move away in the proportion who eventually marry. In both groups less than 6 percent were unmarried at age 55-64. However, marriage is often a time for changing residence. Thus at younger ages such as 18-24 or 25-34 years the proportion married was higher among people who had left farms than among those who remained on farms. For example, at age 25-34, 15.6 percent of the farm-born population still living on farms had never been married, but only 7.4 percent of those who had left the farm were still single (table 4). Or, viewed another way, at this age two-thirds of the farm-born who had married had left the farm, but less than half of the farm-born who had never married had left the farm.

At all ages, people who were born on farms but who had left them showed a higher percentage of those who had ever married than did their nonfarm-born neighbors. In addition there was a higher percentage of widowed and divorced persons among farm people who have left the farm than among those who have stayed on the farm. Whether this results solely from the movement of widowed and divorced persons away from farms after these events take place or whether it is partly caused by a higher occurrence of widowhood and divorce among farm people who have settled in nonfarm residences cannot be determined from the data.

Table 4.--Marital status of the civilian population 18 years of age and over, by residence, age, and farm or nonfarm birthplace, United States, 1958

Residence and age	Farm-born population <sup>1/</sup>				Nonfarm-born population <sup>1/</sup>			
	Total	Never married	Married	Widowed or divorced	Total	Never married	Married	Widowed or divorced
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
<u>Farm Residents</u>								
Total	100	16.1	75.9	8.0	100	9.9	82.6	7.5
18-24 years	100	63.8	35.6	.6	100	49.1	49.8	1.1
25-34	100	15.6	82.7	1.7	100	8.1	91.1	.8
35-44	100	7.0	90.9	2.1	100	5.6	91.5	2.9
45-54	100	6.9	87.4	5.7	100	4.8	89.8	5.4
55-64	100	5.9	84.6	9.5	100	4.9	88.0	7.1
65 and over	100	5.8	63.3	30.9	100	3.5	66.3	30.2
<u>Nonfarm Residents</u>								
Total	100	8.2	78.0	13.8	100	14.3	74.8	10.9
18-24 years	100	40.7	58.5	.8	100	52.7	46.0	1.3
25-34	100	7.4	89.9	2.7	100	12.6	84.5	2.9
35-44	100	4.4	90.5	5.1	100	6.5	88.5	5.0
45-54	100	3.9	86.4	9.7	100	6.7	84.2	9.1
55-64	100	4.8	77.0	18.2	100	7.7	73.4	18.9
65 and over	100	4.2	55.4	40.4	100	7.5	51.3	41.2

<sup>1/</sup> See table 3 for age-group totals on which percentages are based.

## REGIONAL PATTERNS AND INTERREGIONAL MIGRATION

Far more people were born on farms in the South than in any other region. Indeed, in 1958, over half (55 percent) of the farm-born population 18 years old and over was from the South, a result principally of the fact that in the recent past about half of all farms in the United States were located in the South. The North Central States were the region of birth of a third of all farm-born people; the other two regions (Northeast and West) accounted for only 12 percent combined. This is a distinctly different pattern from that of the nonfarm-born population. Among the nonfarm-born, the largest number was from the Northeast (29 percent), with the North Central States and the South supplying 27 and 25 percent respectively. Thus the South has been relatively much more important as a source of farm-born people than of the nonfarm-born.

Although a majority of farm-born adults have left the farm, less than a fourth of these migrants have left their region of birth. The farm-born have not migrated from their region of birth as commonly as have the nonfarm-born (table 5). This is true in the regions having the lowest as well as the highest interregional movement. From the West, where outmigration is lowest, 4.9 percent of the farm-born have left the West to live in another region, while 8.4 percent of the West's nonfarm-born live elsewhere. Interregional migration of farm people has been highest from the North Central States. From this region 17.8 percent of the farm-born have moved to other regions, compared with 21.7 percent of the nonfarm-born. Although much is heard of the migration of rural people out of the South, by 1958 only 15.7 percent of southern farm-born adults had moved to other regions, compared with 23.9 percent of nonfarm-born southerners.

The largest single stream of interregional movement has been from the North Central States to the West. Fully 80 percent of farm-born midwesterners who have moved to a different region have gone to the Western States. The interregional movement of nonfarm natives of the North Central Region has also been dominantly western, but not to the same extent as among the farm-born. Southern farm-born people have gone in greatest numbers to the North Central States, with the West receiving the second largest number. From the South, as from the North Central States, the stream of outmigrants from the farms has been more heavily directed to one region than has been true of the nonfarm-born migrants. Persons of nonfarm birth leaving the South have gone more to the North Central States than to any other single region, but not nearly to the degree true of the farm-born. Relatively more of the nonfarm-born southerners have chosen to move to the Northeast and West instead.

Of all farm-born adults in the United States, one-fifth have never moved and thus have lived their entire life on the farm where they were born (table 6). <sup>4/</sup> This tendency has been greatest in the Northeastern States where 28.8 percent were still on the home farm. It is thought that the high proportion remaining on the home farm in the Northeast in comparison with other regions is partly explained by the very low prevalence of tenant farming in the Northeast. Only 6 percent of northeastern farmers were tenants in 1959, compared with 22 percent in the rest of the Nation. The condition may also be associated with the highly industrial character of the Northeast and the ability to commute to nonfarm work from home.

In the North Central States, where mobility was most prevalent, the proportion of farm people who had moved at least once, but were still on a farm in the same region, was higher than in the Northeast. (In the North Central States, 16.0 percent had moved but were still on a farm in the same region; in the Northeast, 9.4 percent.)

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<sup>4/</sup> Exclusive of moves of less than 1 year in duration.

Table 5.--Region of residence of the civilian population 18 years of age and over, by region of birth and farm or nonfarm birthplace, United States, 1958

Region of birth and farm or nonfarm birthplace	Total	Region of residence					
		Total	Northeast	North Central	South	West	
		Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
United States	108,676	100	27.2	29.2	29.2	14.4	
Farm-born	25,799	100	7.2	33.1	47.7	12.0	
Nonfarm-born <sup>1/</sup>	81,518	100	33.5	28.0	23.4	15.1	
Not reported	1,359	100	26.3	26.5	28.4	18.8	
Northeast	25,436	100	87.4	4.2	4.6	3.8	
Farm-born	1,728	100	88.3	5.1	3.9	2.7	
Nonfarm-born	23,570	100	87.4	4.1	4.7	3.8	
Not reported	138	100	58.7	18.8	8.7	13.8	
North Central	31,283	100	2.1	79.2	4.9	13.8	
Farm-born	8,717	100	.5	82.2	3.1	14.2	
Nonfarm-born	22,325	100	2.7	78.3	5.5	13.5	
Not reported	241	100	3.8	53.5	8.7	34.0	
South	35,258	100	4.6	9.8	79.1	6.5	
Farm-born	14,171	100	2.0	8.8	84.3	4.9	
Nonfarm-born	20,751	100	6.2	10.3	76.1	7.4	
Not reported	336	100	20.2	21.7	45.3	12.8	
West	6,776	100	1.2	4.1	2.7	92.0	
Farm-born	1,183	100	.2	2.6	2.1	95.1	
Nonfarm-born	5,547	100	1.4	4.3	2.7	91.6	
Not reported	46	100	8.7	10.9	13.0	67.4	
Foreign-born <sup>1/</sup>	9,923	100	49.9	21.4	9.6	19.1	
Nonfarm-born	9,325	100	51.0	21.4	8.2	19.4	
Not reported	598	100	32.6	21.2	32.6	13.6	

<sup>1/</sup> In this survey all foreign-born persons reporting birthplace were considered as being nonfarm-born.

Although the West is the most recently settled region and still has some areas where the number of farms has increased in recent years, it had the lowest rate of retaining its farm-born population on its farms (28.3 percent). The West has depended more on migrants from other regions to man its farms. Almost half of its farm residents in 1958 had come from other regions or from abroad. In striking contrast, the farm residents of the South were nearly 97 percent southern-born.

More than half of all farm-born migrants who have moved from one region to another but remained on a farm have gone to the West. However, in the overwhelming majority of cases where farm-born people have left their native region they have taken up a nonfarm residence (9 times out of 10). Within regions a little more than three-fourths of farm-born persons who have moved have gone to a nonfarm place.

Table 6.--Region of residence of the farm-born population 18 years of age and over, by region of birth, current farm or nonfarm residence, and mobility, United States, 1958

Region of birth, current farm or nonfarm residence, and mobility	Total	Region of residence				
		Northeast	North Central	South	West	
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	
United States	25,799	1,858	8,527	12,311	3,103	
Farm residents	9,451	668	3,057	5,163	563	
Entire life on same farm	5,160	497	1,521	2,961	181	
Moved	4,291	171	1,536	2,202	382	
All moves between farms	2,475	83	883	1,335	174	
Some nonfarm moves	1,816	88	653	867	208	
Nonfarm residents	16,348	1,190	5,470	7,148	2,540	
Northeast	1,728	1,525	88	68	47	
Farm residents	686	660	12	7	7	
Entire life on same farm	497	497	---	---	---	
Moved	189	163	12	7	7	
All moves between farms	93	80	8	1	4	
Some nonfarm moves	96	83	4	6	3	
Nonfarm residents	1,042	865	76	61	40	
North Central	8,717	45	7,166	271	1,235	
Farm residents	3,135	5	2,920	51	159	
Entire life on same farm	1,521	---	1,521	---	---	
Moved	1,614	5	1,399	51	159	
All moves between farms	910	1	793	32	84	
Some nonfarm moves	704	4	606	19	75	
Nonfarm residents	5,582	40	4,246	220	1,076	
South	14,171	286	1,242	11,947	696	
Farm residents	5,284	2	115	5,105	62	
Entire life on same farm	2,961	---	---	2,961	---	
Moved	2,323	2	115	2,144	62	
All moves between farms	1,407	2	77	1,302	26	
Some nonfarm moves	916	---	38	842	36	
Nonfarm residents	8,887	284	1,127	6,842	634	
West	1,183	2	31	25	1,125	
Farm residents	346	1	10	---	335	
Entire life on same farm	181	---	---	---	181	
Moved	165	1	10	---	154	
All moves between farms	65	---	5	---	60	
Some nonfarm moves	100	1	5	---	94	
Nonfarm residents	837	1	21	25	790	

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

People who have moved from farms to nonfarm places are equally as likely to be in the labor force as are nonfarm natives, except at young-adult ages. At ages 18-24 years, 66.4 percent of the farm-born migrants were working or looking for work compared with 61.6 percent of nonfarm natives; but at other ages, differences in labor force participation were not significant.

Of those in the labor force, farm-born persons who have left the farm apparently encounter no more difficulty in finding a job than do the longer-established, nonfarm natives. At least there was no significant difference in unemployment rates at the time of the survey during a business recession. In May 1958, 7.4 percent of farm-born, nonfarm residents in the labor force were unemployed. The comparable figure for nonfarm residents of nonfarm birth was 7.3 percent (table 7). Whether there was a difference in the average duration of unemployment among the two groups cannot be ascertained from the data available. Among both groups the unemployment rate was highest among young adults--14.1 and 13.4 percent respectively among farm-born and nonfarm-born workers 18-24 years old. But even at this age where the most recent and newly arrived migrants from farms are concentrated, the farm-born did not show a higher statistically significant rate of unemployment.

**Table 7.--Employment status of the civilian population 18 years of age and over,  
by farm or nonfarm birthplace and residence, United States, 1958**

Employment status	Farm-born		Nonfarm-born	
	Farm	Nonfarm	Farm	Nonfarm
	residence	residence	residence	residence
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>
Total	9,451	16,348	2,584	78,934
In labor force	6,008	9,625	1,466	48,275
Not in labor force	3,443	6,723	1,118	30,659
Labor force	6,008	9,625	1,466	48,275
Employed	5,800	8,917	1,375	44,744
Agriculture	3,733	407	695	776
Nonagricultural industries	2,067	8,510	680	43,968
Unemployed	208	708	91	3,531
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	63.6	58.9	56.7	61.2
Not in labor force	36.4	41.1	43.3	38.8
Labor force	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	96.5	92.6	93.8	92.7
Agriculture	62.1	4.2	47.4	1.6
Nonagricultural industries	34.4	88.4	46.4	91.1
Unemployed	3.5	7.4	6.2	7.3

## OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Occupational data for the employed were tabulated by 11 major groups, but to provide sufficient sample frequencies for analysis by age, the data were further combined into three classes: white collar (professional and technical workers; managers, proprietors, and officials; sales; and clerical workers), blue collar (craftsmen and foremen; operatives; service workers, including domestics; and nonfarm laborers), and farm occupations (farmers and farm managers; and farm laborers and foremen).

The economic relevance of drawing the white-collar, blue-collar distinction in this discussion is the fact that white-collar work is better paid in general than blue-collar work. In the United States as a whole, the median earnings in 1959 of men who were in white-collar jobs in 1960 was \$5,768, compared with \$4,350 for men in blue-collar jobs. Similar differences exist for women. In addition white-collar occupations have been expanding more rapidly than have blue-collar types.

The data show clearly that farm-born people in the nonfarm population are greatly underrepresented in white-collar occupations at all ages (table 8). Among all employed persons 18 years and over, little more than a third of the farm-born were in white-collar jobs, compared with nearly half of the nonfarm-born. The differential was most marked in the 18 to 24 age group and diminished with advancing age. Whether this pattern means that the difference decreases as the farm-born become more experienced and better trained with age or whether it implies that the younger generation recently entering the labor force has been having greater difficulty than its predecessors in competing for white-collar work cannot be determined from these data. We believe the former to be true, however, for during the 1950's the supply of young nonfarm-born workers was very short because of the low birth rates of the 1930's and farm youth were thus entering the nonfarm labor force at a very favorable time.

Logically, it is not surprising that farm people go principally into so-called blue-collar jobs when they leave the farm. The types of job skills that farm-reared people acquire, such as competence in construction work, or in operation and repair of machinery, plus the fact that they are accustomed to manual labor, suits them for work as truck drivers, factory operatives, craftsmen, or laborers. Furthermore their average level of formal education is often too low to make them readily suitable for many types of white-collar work without further training.

Within the broad white-collar category, the distribution of the two farm-nonfarm birth groups among the various classes of white-collar jobs is about the same (data not shown). For example, farm-reared, white-collar workers are just about as likely to be professional or technical workers as are nonfarm-reared persons. Apparently the farm-born do not become white-collar workers as frequently as do the nonfarm-born, but when they do, they are just as likely to get the higher-status types of jobs.

About 4 percent of employed farm-born people living in nonfarm homes were working as farmers or farm laborers and foremen. Thus a minority of farm-born people who move to a nonfarm place of residence continue to work in agriculture. This practice was greatest for persons over 65 years of age.

## INDUSTRIAL STATUS

Although farm-born people who have left the farm are considerably underrepresented in white-collar occupations, farm origin does not seem to be as much of a major factor in the distribution of workers among the various nonfarm industries. (The distinction here is between occupation, which is the type of task that a person performs, and industry, which is the type of business in which his occupation is performed.)



Table 8.--Major occupation and **industry** groups of the employed nonfarm population 18 years of age and over, by age and farm or nonfarm birthplace, United States, 1958

Major occupation and industry groups <sup>1/</sup>	Total employed		18-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-54 years		55-64 years		65 years and over	
	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born	Farm-born	Nonfarm-born
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Total employed	8,917	44,774	874	5,605	1,644	10,631	2,236	11,150	2,170	9,548	1,401	5,900	592	1,910
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
<u>Occupation</u>														
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	35.5	49.6	34.0	53.3	34.6	48.9	34.5	49.8	37.4	50.5	35.5	46.2	37.5	47.9
Blue-collar workers	60.5	48.9	61.5	44.8	62.8	49.7	62.4	49.1	60.0	48.2	59.2	52.2	50.5	48.0
Farm workers	4.0	1.5	4.5	1.9	2.6	1.4	3.1	1.1	2.6	1.3	5.3	1.6	12.0	4.1
<u>Industry</u>														
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	4.6	1.7	5.4	2.3	3.3	1.6	3.4	1.2	3.3	1.6	5.6	1.8	13.5	4.4
Wage and salary	2.4	1.0	4.8	2.0	2.0	.9	1.9	.8	2.0	.9	1.8	.7	4.4	1.9
Self-employed and unpaid	2.2	.7	.6	.3	1.3	.7	1.5	.4	1.3	.7	3.8	1.1	9.1	2.5
Nonagricultural industries	95.4	98.3	94.6	97.7	96.7	98.4	96.6	98.8	96.7	98.4	94.4	98.2	86.5	95.6
Wage and salary	83.2	86.9	93.4	95.3	90.3	91.2	84.1	86.8	80.9	83.2	79.0	82.1	63.5	71.6
Forestry, fishing, and mining	1.4	1.0	1.1	.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.7	.9	1.5	.7	.8	.5
Construction	7.3	5.4	7.7	5.5	8.1	6.9	8.8	5.3	6.2	4.9	6.4	5.0	4.6	4.8
Manufacturing	23.2	27.0	26.6	24.9	30.3	28.7	25.3	30.4	22.3	26.3	17.3	24.7	8.3	13.8
Transportation, communication, and public utilities	7.5	7.4	7.3	6.8	8.3	8.3	7.6	6.5	7.4	7.0	8.5	9.1	3.2	5.4
Trade	15.4	16.2	22.9	20.6	17.1	16.5	15.5	16.9	14.7	15.5	12.7	12.3	7.9	12.6
Private households	6.4	3.3	5.5	3.4	4.4	1.8	5.1	2.7	6.4	3.5	9.6	5.1	11.5	8.3
Educational services	4.8	5.2	2.9	5.4	4.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.9	5.7	5.0	5.4	5.1	4.3
Other services	12.1	16.0	17.6	24.6	11.8	17.1	10.3	13.0	11.4	13.8	11.1	14.3	16.9	17.6
Public administration	5.1	5.4	1.8	3.4	4.9	5.5	5.4	6.1	4.9	5.6	6.9	5.5	5.2	4.3
Self-employed and unpaid	12.2	11.4	1.2	2.4	6.4	7.2	12.5	12.0	15.8	15.2	15.4	16.1	23.0	24.0

<sup>1/</sup> White-collar occupation includes professional and technical workers, managers, officials, salesmen, and clerical workers; blue-collar occupation includes craftsmen, foremen, operatives, service workers, and nonfarm laborers; farm occupation includes farmers, farm managers, and farm laborers and foremen.

Among nonfarm residents, the farm-born were found in above-average proportions in wage and salary jobs in construction work, domestic household work, forestry-fishing-mining (combined), and in agriculture. (Of the farm-born, 17.5 percent were employed in these industries, compared with 10.7 percent of other nonfarm residents.) Employment differences between the farm-born and nonfarm-born were negligible in wage and salary work in transportation-communications-public utilities (combined), wholesale and retail trade, education, and public administration (table 8).

In manufacturing, which is the largest single-industry group, the pattern is mixed. At all age groups above age 35, the farm-born are underrepresented in manufacturing, but this is not true at younger ages where they are found in manufacturing at above-average proportions. Farm-born migrants are less likely than nonfarm-born persons to be wage or salary workers in service industries, exclusive of education and domestic service. Thus there are differences in the industrial composition of nonfarm natives and farm-born migrants, but they are not of the same dimension as the differences noted earlier in broad classes of occupations.

Because of the qualities of entrepreneurship, risk taking, and independence involved in self-employment, persons who were self-employed were tabulated separately, regardless of industry, in order to see whether persons from farms were inclined to go into such ventures. There proved to be no meaningful difference in the prevalence of farm and nonfarm-born persons in self-employment. The farm-born migrants have not been overly limited to wage and salary jobs; they have been as likely to go into nonfarm businesses for themselves as have the nonfarm natives.

## RETURN MIGRATION

One of the axioms of migration analysis is that almost every voluntary stream of migration has a return stream. This is true of the movement of farm-born people, but under existing conditions of declining number of farms, farm employment, and habitation of farms, the return stream is comparatively small. In 1958 there were an estimated 1,816,000 people, 18 years old and over, living on farms who were also born on a farm, but who had lived off the farm for some period of their lives. They amounted to 10.0 percent of all farm-born persons who had ever left the farm (table 9).

The limited data available do not show any sharp differences in the characteristics of these return migrants compared with farm people who had not left the farm or who left and remained away. It can be said that return movement has been very low among nonwhites; only 5.8 percent of them have moved back to farms. The returnees were almost evenly divided between men and women. In age composition they were somewhat high in proportion of middle-aged persons and low in proportion of the elderly. After the return to the farm, their labor force and occupational characteristics were much like those of other farm residents, except that they showed a somewhat lower concentration in agriculture and more employment in trade, service industries, and self-employed positions. There was no discernible difference in the marital status of the returnees as compared with migrants who had not returned, except for a low proportion of widowed persons at advanced ages, a trait characteristic of all farm residents. Differences in rate of return by regions were negligible.

## FARM RESIDENTS OF NONFARM BIRTH

Although the dominant flow of people between farms and nonfarm places has long been from the farm to cities, towns and other nonfarm areas, there has been a substantial counterstream of nonfarm natives who have moved to farms. There were 2,584,000 adult farm residents of this class in 1958, including 404,000 foreign-born

Table 9.—Characteristics of farm-born and nonfarm-born migrants 18 years of age and over, and rate of return migration, United States, 1958

Item	Farm-born--migrated to nonfarm			Nonfarm-born--migrated to farm		
	Residence still nonfarm	Returned to farm by 1958	Rate of return 1/	Residence still farm	Returned to non- farm by 1958	Rate of return 1/
	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.
Total migrants	16,348	1,816	10.0	2,584	3,298	56.1
<u>Age</u>						
18-24 years	1,533	144	8.6	265	313	54.2
25-34	2,717	277	9.3	480	573	54.4
35-44	3,341	423	11.2	552	631	53.3
45-54	3,157	386	10.9	500	637	56.0
55-64	2,545	337	11.7	410	502	55.0
65 and over	3,055	249	7.5	377	642	63.0
Median age (years)	46.8	46.7	—	44.9	47.1	—
<u>Sex</u>						
Male	7,650	924	10.8	1,211	1,508	55.5
Female	8,698	892	9.3	1,373	1,790	56.6
<u>Color</u>						
White	14,090	1,677	10.6	2,512	3,079	55.1
Nonwhite	2,258	139	5.8	72	219	75.3
<u>Marital Status</u>						
Never married	1,348	140	9.4	257	229	47.1
Married	12,743	1,157	10.6	2,134	2,258	54.7
Widowed or divorced	2,257	159	6.6	193	491	71.8
<u>Region of Residence</u>						
Northeast	1,190	88	6.9	470	424	47.4
North Central	5,470	653	10.7	913	1,086	54.3
South	7,148	867	10.8	746	903	54.8
West	2,540	208	7.6	455	885	66.0

1/ Migrants returning to original type of residence by 1958 as a percent of all migrants leaving original residence type.

persons.<sup>5/</sup> They accounted for a rather surprisingly high proportion of the farm-resident population--21.5 percent. In general, for every six farm people who have left farms, one nonfarm native has moved to a farm.

The proportion of farm residents who were born off the farm varied considerably among regions (table 10). It was highest in the Northeast and the West, where more than 40 percent of the farm population were of nonfarm origin. On the other hand, in the South only 13 percent of the farm residents had a nonfarm birthplace. The data do not reveal the reasons for such high proportions of nonfarm origin in the Northeast and West, but several factors can be suggested. One is the fact that farm laborers are less often of farm origin than are farm operators. At the time of the survey, nearly one-fifth of all farm operators in the United States were nonfarm-born, whereas a third of hired farm workers were nonfarm-born. Thus, to the extent that farm laborers live on farms, a region with a relatively high proportion of hired workers in its agricultural labor force, such as the West, or a moderately high proportion, such as the

5/ Foreign-born persons are classed as nonfarm-born in this report, regardless of their actual residence at birth.

Table 10.--Region of residence of the farm population 18 years of age and over, by region of birth and farm or nonfarm birthplace, United States, 1958

Region of birth and farm or nonfarm birthplace	Total	Region of residence			
		Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
United States	12,035	1,138	3,970	5,909	1,018
Farm-born	9,451	668	3,057	5,163	563
Nonfarm-born	2,584	470	913	746	455
Native	2,180	349	785	717	329
Foreign <sup>1/</sup>	404	121	128	29	126
Northeast	1,060	978	36	22	24
Farm-born	686	660	12	7	7
Nonfarm-born	374	318	24	15	17
North Central	3,989	19	3,608	118	244
Farm-born	3,135	5	2,920	51	159
Nonfarm-born	854	14	688	67	85
South	6,027	18	171	5,731	107
Farm-born	5,284	2	115	5,105	62
Nonfarm-born	743	16	56	626	45
West	555	2	27	9	517
Farm-born	346	1	10	---	335
Nonfarm-born	209	1	17	9	182
Foreign-born <sup>1/</sup>	404	121	128	29	126

<sup>1/</sup> In this survey all foreign-born persons reporting birthplace were considered as being nonfarm-born.

Northeast, would have a higher-than-average percentage of farm residents of nonfarm origin. Also, the relatively recent period of settlement of much of the agricultural West may have provided more opportunities for nonfarm people to enter agriculture in that region. In the Northeast, the small size of the farm population compared with the huge metropolitan population of that region enables the movement of a relatively small number of nonfarm people into agriculture to have a substantial effect on the composition of the farm population.

Very few of the nonfarm people who have moved to farms were nonwhite (less than 3 percent), whereas nonwhites made up 14 percent of the migration stream away from farms. Thus nonwhites who were not born on farms have been less likely than whites to move eventually to farms. As a result of the small size of this counterstream of nonwhite migration, only 5.1 percent of the nonwhite farm population consisted of people of nonfarm birth, compared with 23.6 percent in the white farm population. When this pattern is considered in connection with the fact that few nonwhite persons of farm birth who leave the farm ever return to farm life, it can be shown that only 15 percent of the adult nonwhite farm population of 1958 had had the experience of living as nonfarm residents, compared with about 40 percent of the white farm population. This very large differential in direct exposure to nonfarm living would seem to have considerable significance for the design and conduct of economic and social programs affecting farm people in areas where large numbers of both white and nonwhite farm people live.

Persons of nonfarm origin moving to farms are very similar to farm natives in their age distribution, except for a somewhat low proportion at ages 18-24 years. The median age of the two groups is identical--44.9 years.

The sex ratio of persons of nonfarm birth who moved to farms (88.2 men per 100 women) was very similar to that of the entire nonfarm residence group from which they came, but it was much lower than that of other farm residents. The low sex ratio of persons moving to farms highlights the fact that many of the nonfarm-to-farm migrants are women who have married farmers and have moved as a result of the marriage.

The proportion married among this migrant group is very high, especially between the ages of 25 and 64 (table 4). Some unmarried men move to farms as hired workers, but unmarried women seldom do.

There has been less interregional movement among the nonfarm-to-farm migrants than among farm natives who have gone to nonfarm places. Nonfarm-born people who enter farming, and women who come into the farm population because of marriage, are most apt to do so in their region of birth.

The labor force participation rate was lower for farm residents of nonfarm origin (57 percent) than for the rest of the farm population (64 percent). This is consistent with the predominance of women--especially married women--among persons who move to farms. One-half of the employed farm residents of nonfarm origin worked in agriculture, compared with 64 percent in agriculture among employed farm residents who were born on farms. Again, this fact reflects the higher-than-average proportion of women among them, for women living on farms are more likely to have nonfarm jobs than to work on the farm. The lower proportion engaged in agriculture can also result from classifying workers only by their principal job at the time of the survey. Some nonfarm natives who move to farms continue to work principally in nonfarm occupations.

About 31.7 million persons, or 30 percent of the total 1958 survey population, had either been born on a farm or spent at least 1 year of life on a farm. Nearly 6 million of them were persons of nonfarm birth who had been attracted to farms at

some time, but by 1958 more than half of this group(3.3 million) had returned to nonfarm life.

The sex and age composition of nonfarm migrants who remained on farms was similar to that of those who returned to nonfarm life, except for a high proportion of persons 65 years old and over among the returnees (table 7). Nonfarm-born persons who were single or married were more likely to remain in farm areas than those who became widowed or divorced.

In 1958, the Northeast had about as many persons of nonfarm origin living on farms as it had of those who had returned to nonfarm life. At the other extreme, about two-thirds of the people of nonfarm origin in the West who had had some experience at farm life were no longer living on farms. Not all of this large number of returnees may have lived on western farms in the past. Some may have left farms in other regions and moved to the West.

The small number of nonwhite persons of nonfarm-birth who had ever lived on farms had returned to nonfarm life at a very high rate (75 percent returned).

About half of the employed nonfarm migrants on farms in 1958 were primarily engaged in farm occupations during the survey week (27 percent as farmers and farm managers and 22 percent as farm laborers). In contrast, returnees to nonfarm life were principally engaged in blue-collar occupations with the majority working as craftsmen, foremen, or operatives.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Coverage.--The figures shown in this report relate to the noninstitutional civilian population only, and exclude Alaska, Hawaii, and all members of the Armed Forces. Questions on residence history were asked only of persons 18 years of age and over.

Residence.--In this report the population is divided into two current residence groups, farm and nonfarm. The method of determining farm and nonfarm residence is essentially the same as in the 1950 Census. For each person's place of birth, current place of residence, and up to three intervening residences, the question was asked, "Is (was) this residence on a farm?" This definition of a farm is not the definition currently employed and yields a larger farm population than would a survey taken under the present definition which uses criteria of land acreage and value of farm products sold.

Farm or nonfarm residence at birth was obtained for the native population only. All foreign-born persons reporting residence at place of birth were classified as non-farm-born.

A change in residence was counted only if the period of residence was a year or more. There were, however, two exceptions to the 1-year residence period. Neither current residence nor residence at birth need have lasted a year to be recorded.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Marital status.--The marital status classification identifies three major categories: Never married, married, and widowed or divorced. These terms refer to marital status at the time of enumeration.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise those who, during the survey week, were either (a) "at work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (b) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, or bad weather, or because they were taking time off for various other reasons.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons include those who did not work at all during the survey week and were looking for work. Also included as unemployed were those who did not work at all during the survey week and (a) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days, or (c) would have been looking for work except that they were temporarily ill or believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

Labor force.--The civilian labor force comprises the total of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

Not in labor force.--All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as not in labor force.

Major occupation group.--The occupational categories shown are based on the classification system used in the 1950 Census of Population. The data on occupation relate to the kind of work at which employed during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs are classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The occupational categories have been divided into three groups in the presentation tables in the text. They are White Collar (which includes professional, technical, and kindred workers; managers, officials, and proprietors except farm; clerical and kindred workers; and sales workers), Blue Collar (craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers; operatives and kindred workers; service workers, including private household; and laborers except farm and mine), and Farm (farmers and farm managers; and farm laborers and foremen).

Industry group.--Industry classification refers to the kind of business or industry in which person was employed during the week of enumeration. If an employed person worked at two or more jobs during the enumeration week, he was classified in the industry in which he worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The data presented are for 10 broad industry groups combined from more detailed classifications used in the 1950 Census of Population.

Class of worker.--Wage and salary workers are persons who worked for an employer for wages, salary, commission, tips, payment-in-kind, or at piece rates. Self-employed workers are persons who worked for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade; or who operated a farm, either as an owner or tenant. Included here are the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments as well as small merchants, independent craftsmen and professional men, farmers, peddlers, and other persons who conducted enterprises of their own. Persons paid to manage businesses or farms owned by other persons or by corporations, on the other hand, are classified as wage and salary workers. Unpaid family workers are persons who worked without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage. The great majority of unpaid family workers are farm laborers.

Regions.--The four regions used in this survey are the Northeast, North Central, South, and West. In this report they refer to the 48 States and District of Columbia only, and the total does not include Alaska and Hawaii. The composition of the regions by States is as follows:

Northeast: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

North Central: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

South: Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

West: Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California.

## SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The data come from a supplement to the May 1958 Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census in which a section on residence history and smoking habits was included. They were collected for the National Cancer Institute, Public Health Service, to be used in a study of the effects of residence and smoking history on lung cancer risks. The data used here were obtained from special tabulations of this survey made by the Bureau of the Census for the Farm Population Branch, Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The sample design under which this survey was carried out was instituted in May 1956. It was spread over 330 areas, comprising 638 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 48 then-existing States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 households were interviewed. About 1,500 additional occupied units were included in the design used for this study, but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. Also about 5,500 sample units which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1950 Census of Population, and statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates are based on sample data, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

Standard error.--Table 11 contains the standard error of estimates of the number of persons in a given class. The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variation which might occur by chance because only a sample of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, it also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors, but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice



the standard error and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2 1/2 times the standard error.

Table 12 indicates the standard error of sample percentages. The standard errors are expressed as percentages of the base figure. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage.

As an illustration of the use of table 12, an estimated 27.3 percent of farm-born women 65 years old and over were reported as still living on farms (table 3). The base of this estimated percentage is the 2,307,000 farm-born women in the age group. The standard error of such a percentage from a base of this size is about 1.3 percent. Therefore the chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have shown the percentage to lie between 26.0 and 28.6 percent, and about 95 out of 100 that the percentage would lie between 24.7 and 29.9 percent.

Table 11.—Standard error of estimated numbers (Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Males			Females		
Estimated number	Standard error		Estimated number	Standard error	
50,000	13,000	:	25,000	7,000	
100,000	16,000	:	50,000	10,000	
200,000	24,000	:	100,000	13,000	
500,000	40,000	:	200,000	20,000	
1,000,000	55,000	:	500,000	28,000	
2,000,000	75,000	:	750,000	35,000	
3,000,000	95,000	:	1,000,000	40,000	
5,000,000	115,000	:	2,000,000	55,000	
10,000,000	155,000	:	3,000,000	70,000	
15,000,000	175,000	:	5,000,000	90,000	
20,000,000	190,000	:	10,000,000	120,000	
25,000,000	200,000	:	25,000,000	160,000	

Table 12.--Standard error of estimated percentages  
(Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage				
	500,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000
<b>Males</b>					
2 or 98	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3
5 or 95	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
10 or 90	2.3	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.9
25 or 75	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.0
50	3.9	2.7	1.9	1.6	1.2
<b>Females</b>					
2 or 98	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
5 or 95	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
10 or 90	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.6
25 or 75	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.8
50	3.0	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.0
	Base of percentage				
	10,000,000	15,000,000	25,000,000	50,000,000	
<b>Males</b>					
2 or 98	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	
5 or 95	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	
10 or 90	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	
25 or 75	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	
50	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.4	
<b>Females</b>					
2 or 98	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
5 or 95	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	
10 or 90	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	
25 or 75	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	
50	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	

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